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**DEPARTMENT OF POSTAL REGULATION
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

Office of PAGR

**Chairman Ruth Goldway
c/o Secretary of the Postal Regulatory Commission
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 200
Washington, D. C. 20268-001**

Dear Chairman Goldway:

This letter serves as an appeal of the USPS final determination to close the post office in Jonesville, Texas 75659. I am representing four entities all of which are located in Jonesville: as a co-owner of T.C. Lindsey & Company, a historic country store (Box 34); as a trustee for the Ark and the Dove Foundation (Box 42); a partner in Vaughan Properties LLP, (Box 87), and myself (Box 141).

I would like for the decision to close the Jonesville post office to be remanded or dismissed for the following reasons:

- (1) The initial input was not requested from all of the customers of the Jonesville Post Office, but only to those persons who had post office boxes. Jonesville is a small rural community and many Jonesville area residents patronizing the Jonesville post office do not rent post office boxes and utilize the Jonesville Post Office to pay bills by USPS money orders, to purchase stamps and other USPS supplies, and/or to pick up their packages. Others live in neighboring communities and utilize the Jonesville post office to purchase stamps and to mail or receive packages because of the convenience, easy access, security of mail, and efficient services provided. In addition, the Jonesville Post Office is open for a short period of time on Saturday mornings, making it possible for those persons who work in neighboring towns or cities to have access to over the counter postal services which is an important factor to persons living in rural areas who have to commute to work.**

- (2) The provision of a maximum degree of effective, secure, and regular postal service to this small community and surrounding rural area is a major concern. The Jonesville Post Office provides easy access to patrons, particularly to senior citizens, commuters, persons living with handicaps, and persons living on limited incomes. Driving further distances for USPS services would provide a hardship and an added expense. It is my understanding that Federal Law and the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 require that USPS provide "effective and regular postal service to rural areas, communities, and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining." This, alone, appears to be a reason to reconsider the decision for closure of the Jonesville Post Office.**
- (3) The security of the mail is a major concern for businesses and individuals served by the Jonesville Post Office. These are of particular concern not only for our family business, family partnership, and the foundation but also for the other local businesses which utilize the Jonesville Post Office. where funds are received and mailed. Unattended roadside mailboxes are not an option for security reasons.**
- (4) The Postal Service' proposed action will not serve the best interest of citizens, non-profits, and businesses currently using the Jonesville Post Office for postal services. The USPS has provided safe, efficient, easily-accessible and secure postal services to the small rural Jonesville community since the late 1840's. With the national economy being as it is, persons living in rural areas and rural based businesses and non-profits need the regular USPS services now more than ever. Closure would negatively affect all persons and entities currently being served by the Jonesville Post Office. The increased use of the Jonesville Post Office reflected by increasing revenues for the past few years is documented in reports provided by USPS. In 2011, USPS accepted an offer to reduce the lease cost of the building being used by USPS by one half, providing a significant savings in operational costs. Closure of the post office at a time when a demonstrated positive trend in increased income and a reduction of expenses seems in itself to warrant a reconsideration of the decision to close the Jonesville Post Office.**
- (5) Some entities utilizing the Jonesville Post Office (new businesses, churches, non-profit organizations) were omitted in the initial description of the Jonesville community which appeared in the USPS report. Photographs of some of the omitted entities taken by me as part of the documentation report previously sent to the District USPS office. If the closure decision is not remanded or dismissed and the decision for closure is upheld, these businesses, non-profits, and all persons utilizing the Jonesville Post Office will be negatively impacted for all of the above previously mentioned reasons.**

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Martha L. Vaughan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "V" at the end.

Martha L. Vaughan
Trustee, Ark and the Dove Foundation
Co-Owner of T. C. Lindsey & Company
Partner, Vaughan Properties LLP